

[From "The Liberty Bell" : published for the National A. S. Bazaar.]

## SONNETS.

IN MEMORY OF JOHN BISHOP ESTLIN.

BY ANNE WARREN WESTON.

I.

YEARS come and go, but our appointed task  
 Still lies before us—at our progress slow  
 We would not murmur, nor impatient ask  
 How long the way through which our steps must go?  
 Whither it leads and what its flowers we know,  
 And on we would in patient courage move,  
 While round us shines the bright and rosy glow  
 Reflected from the guiding lights above!  
 But as we fain would ring a joyous chime  
 In Freedom's honour, as in by-gone time,  
 Alas! the notes in silence die away,  
 Or mournful on the ear their echoes swell,  
 As tones that should have pealed, clear, full and gay,  
 Sink to the sadness of a funeral knell!

II.

The just man perisheth, but oh, say not  
 None layeth it to heart; a mighty crowd  
 Gather in spirit round the hallow'd spot  
 Where sleep his ashes; there together bowed  
 The Slave, the Blind; the Poor lament aloud  
 A friend and brother—men of differing creeds  
 Grieve over ooe so graciously endowed,  
 And the remembrance of his life-long deeds  
 Of Love and Mercy rise, as perfume strown,  
 In lands wherein his face was never known.  
 I, too, could weep, but for the trembling words  
 His own hand traced, courage and hope they give;  
 This the example his whole life affords,  
 "Resign'd to die, or resolute to live!"\*

Weymouth, September 9, 1855.

\* In the last letter I ever received from Mr. Estlin, written with the left hand, after the first attack of the disease of which he died, this line was quoted as expressive of his state of mind.

was held in Amory Hall, corner of West and Washington streets. It was here that the Earl of Carlisle sought the Abolitionists where they were to be found, cheerfully engaged in the seemingly trifling, but really all-important, duty of the hour, and never since has his voice of cheer been wanting to them in their land or his own. There it was that his sister, the Duchess of Sutherland, came in the spirit and by her words of sympathy, "because it was impossible *not* to do whatever might *possibly* be of use," and because she "felt impelled to stretch her hand across the Atlantic to a hand near to every sympathy of her heart," and because "from youth this cause had come between her and her peace." And so she has ever cherished it: and shall not this cause of human nature be, to her latest hour, peace and joy and continual consolation, as in all affliction it is to us?

The pecuniary receipts of these years in Amory Hall stand thus:

1841, . . . . .	\$2,000		1843, . . . . .	\$2,812
1842, . . . . .	2,641		1844, . . . . .	2,800

After 1844, the Bazaar was held in Faneuil Hall, with the following results:

1845, . . . . .	\$3,754		1848, . . . . .	\$3,300
1846, . . . . .	4,525		1849, . . . . .	3,360
1847, . . . . .	4,300		1850, . . . . .	3,410

At Assembly Hall, near the Worcester Railroad:

1851, . . . . .	\$3,125
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At Horticultural Hall, School street:

1852, . . . . .	\$4,052		1852, . . . . .	\$4,236
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Winter street Hall, No. 15:

1854, . . . . .	\$5,011		1855, . . . . .	\$4,659
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For their constant, sympathetic, devoted and abundant coöperation, during all these toilsome years, we feel how much we owe our honoured and beloved associates in

Richmond  
The Green  
No. 6 Pentroke Villas  
April 21. 1863

My dear friend

It is a long long  
while since any written  
communication passed  
between us, & yet I feel  
as if the unwritten, & un-  
spoken communion had  
never been interrupted. I have  
now for a moment divert-  
ed you from your recollection  
of me, & have daily remem-  
bered you with an affection

that cannot change.

I have felt assured  
that you could understand  
a heart less strong than your  
own, which, possessed by a  
great sorrow cannot open  
itself with the unreserve  
to which <sup>true</sup> friendship has  
a claim & shrinks from  
giving to such a claim only  
fragments of its outward  
life. These few words will  
explain, if indeed explanation  
were needed, why during  
the <sup>last</sup> past two years I have  
been so much separated from  
old & dearly beloved friends  
both here & at home. I  
have long since ceased to write

to letters - unless constrained by  
some necessity. I don't want  
to add one or two in except  
my two brothers & sisters. &  
while feeling sensibly the  
loss of the old interchange  
of ideas I cannot yet over-  
come the unwillingness to  
turn to a past which is  
now so full of pain. Circum-  
stances & time will I hope  
help me to conquer this in-  
ability. I do not cherish it  
but I speak of it as a fact.  
which I am sure you will un-  
derstand - ~~My regards to~~  
perhaps maybe regret for  
my sake - ~~But~~ on death  
ground of my life since  
I wrote to you last has been

Spent with my Aunt & Uncle  
at Sheen & Brighton &  
London. My Aunt's health  
is completely shattered &  
she has recently had a  
succession of severe attacks  
which of course created  
a series of albums - & must  
necessarily be troublesome & in  
which time flows on we  
know not how - & seems  
of it be not mensurably  
lost - I came now & then  
to Richmond for a few  
days or hours at a time.  
In the last winter came  
a very long time during  
which my Aunt was un-  
able to go out or leave  
the room - & could not

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2  
I can see his friends, I was  
inured at that time in  
confining myself too much  
before I perceived they  
thought I found myself  
very weak, & at last the ill-  
ness came to Rochester  
in the last part of February  
& for a short time felt  
much better for the change  
of air & scene, but early  
in March I was attacked  
by Influenza which was  
long & tedious & just as I  
began to hope that I was  
getting better it seemed to  
enter upon a new phase  
& the illness commenced at a con-

gripes of the lungs. I had  
no fever & I suppose it  
was only the regular course  
of an Influenza which would  
not leave any organ unvisited.

I was obliged to have done  
a good deal of remedies  
which  
with ten days in bed  
and a month in my  
room reduced me to a  
state of great weakness  
which has not yet passed  
away. I have however been  
our repeated by the divine  
& have the freedom of their  
Semi-detached house but  
I find all efforts very  
exhausting - a very little  
travelling on a stool of brass



position which renders me very  
susceptible of changes & renders  
of course & indeed makes me  
think from an altogether false  
I am improving & hope  
to get such some measure  
of strength before long.  
I think I am so changed  
you would never know  
me. I shall remain  
here for the present.  
My Aunt is worse at least  
she had a very severe attack  
but she is in charge of  
Doctors & Nurses & I could  
do nothing for her & am  
better away on all accounts.  
I need not say to you  
who must have watched  
with us the progress of

events in America, how  
entirely we seem to be  
identified with it - & how  
full of anxious expectation  
our lives have been & are.

I tried vainly to write to  
you on the first of June &  
express the thanks & gratings  
of my heart for the great  
love promised by Pres. A's  
Proclamation; but prophe-  
ts of evil omen stood all  
round about & through  
I did not doubt that  
it would come - They  
did me. It came at last.

Mr. West was here on that  
day & much as we both  
felt the joy & thanksgiving

Many thoughts were in our  
 hearts - too late a sleep for  
 words. ~~However~~ & that is our  
 too with you regarding our  
 friend & I don't feel  
 able to write to you then.

How strange by life you  
 once the labor & plan  
 & always it is the unex-  
pected which is certain.

The long deferred hope shown  
 a character with war & grief  
 a few for our dears our friends  
 & our country. It was not  
 so that we had hoped.  
 The day of prosecution  
 would come, though we  
 always knew that all  
 these were possibilities  
 we knew to what end

We lusted & prayed but  
nothing is more true  
than that our minds are  
shaped by unseen forces  
which as we rough-hewed  
them, we never apprehended  
The Nation so long blind-  
ed & hardened, now sees &  
feels. — it understands too,  
that its present suffering  
springs not out of the ground  
but has flowed necessarily  
from long years of sin's pressure  
& now the eleventh hour  
Laborers are giving, toiling  
& dying in the cause as  
faithfully as the old  
Guard of the "Boston  
Board" who so long upheld  
the fight alone & so many

of whom have fallen by  
the way. It is an awful - Alway  
- those mainly, there is now  
fighting the battle of Freedom  
Little and Garrison & Juno  
& Mary & the Anti Slavery men  
even less men of peace than  
they - think when in the Plymouth  
& Abington - & Framingham  
& Dedham Grove. They preached  
on the first of August, on  
on Society - unwarlike for  
a long succession of years the  
Anti Slavery Gospel - that  
the churchmen elsewhere who  
listened to enough by ~~the~~  
while they spoke of freedom  
"slowly & surely" By Mary Juno  
"near & far" & further - there  
these were they who were  
the face of the world of Belton

Amusing - with one charm  
of dress or even washing  
their hands, to the first R.R.  
Station whence they could  
start for the defence of their  
Capital (since redeemed from  
disgrace). These ~~men~~  
these infam. histories were  
to fight & fall & conquer or  
lose on behalf of their cause  
~~among~~ whose principles & tendency  
they mean so grandly to  
forth - we hoped it would  
triumph in peace - but it  
was not to be. Nevertheless  
there are in every company of  
our Northern troops preachers  
& apostles from since 1830  
who know perfectly well  
the whole scope of the  
tion & our army has fought  
its battles with full intelligence  
of what it was about - that  
was not what the Anti Slavery

looked for ~~the~~ let us see how  
would this ~~be~~ but ~~we~~ with  
harder of ~~our~~ feet when  
the ~~truth~~ ~~has~~ been ~~found~~  
God ~~will~~ ~~send~~ the ~~wisdom~~  
of men for good & I believe  
that his will is that ~~the~~  
of ~~the~~ country ~~should~~ ~~be~~ ~~free~~  
from the curse of Slavery. ~~And~~  
if then we can do no good  
in the world, but ~~we~~ ~~are~~ ~~in~~  
really free ~~we~~ ~~are~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~world~~  
whose ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~country~~  
depleted so long - if you ~~is~~ ~~will~~  
if we see blood, certainly ~~in~~  
this matter he lends us by  
in way we ~~do~~ ~~not~~ ~~know~~  
or ~~feel~~ - but ~~we~~ ~~are~~ ~~not~~ ~~to~~  
believe it will ~~be~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~world~~  
only to wash our own hands  
of this ~~sin~~ - but to destroy  
it ~~at~~ ~~all~~ ~~our~~ ~~borders~~ - thus  
opening future generations the  
long agony, which the ~~neigh~~

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brotherhood of men. I have always  
found more contentment in  
a deed in my mind than in  
a word. I have been told  
that all these late papers  
have been written from  
your almost exclusive  
taken. I find to continue being  
thus we are fighting for  
I am not for freedom, that  
I find myself beginning almost  
to speak on these topics  
to you, who doubtless think  
just as I do about it, though  
I can hardly expect you to be  
as energetic as I have been  
in the cause of Anti Slavery  
Comprehension round about  
us. I remember you always  
thought in past times that  
we were the Anti Slavery  
Spirit of England. Do you see  
I or many we were  
Pro Slavery Nation.



importance though not larger  
minority, favoring the change  
the minds of the people  
Now you be thanked, we  
~~are~~  
~~are~~  
One anti Slavery Nation  
with a large minority still  
full of Pro-Slavery attitudes  
tending to drag the people  
back into the pit from which  
they have been dragged and  
have faith to believe that  
they will labor in vain. There  
is no longer with the opposition  
I believe that we are in-  
comparably relieved from the curse  
which has lighted us so  
long & that no weakness or  
mistake of ours can disturb  
the order of things. We  
must be patient knowing  
that the effects of causes which

...not no longer...  
...to them, necessary and...  
...the...  
...of confusion, corruption, in-  
Justice & thought we may  
...to witness, no one  
can say, who cannot measure  
the causes that have led  
to such evils. Thus, much is  
certain, that Country has now  
ranged itself on the side  
of Right & Justice - circum-  
stances have fully demon-  
strated the nature tendencies &  
intentions of the Slave power  
The danger of such an alliance  
is made clear to the discerning  
eyes - & an amendment of  
Righteous legislation has been  
obtained, which we should  
have a short time since  
have believed impossible

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Points are teaching us much  
All now is understood.

The last news is better  
than we have had for  
a long time; especially the  
rallying of the political prin-  
ciples around their real prin-  
ciples is encouraging. The  
inevitable chaos of the  
last 2 years is resolving in  
to intelligible order. & <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>state of things</sup> ~~state~~  
~~will~~ be read & understood  
by all beholders as well  
as ~~it~~ has been long under-  
stood by those engaged in  
the conflict. The late ex-  
position of the plans & in-  
tentions of the Northern Pro-  
slavery party. Made so clear  
in Lord Lyon's letter to Earl Russell  
will do great good, as the only

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thing needful is that the  
Lords should see where  
to great advantage  
the Lushington Pension, suspected  
by some, & accounted by  
many more, than fully  
deserved. & I doubt much  
if any political party can  
oppose to include these  
traitors in their ranks.

Now much I should like  
to see you & talk over these  
& a thousand other things!  
If you are as much disposed  
to understand and for  
give my long silence as  
I hope, I can assure you  
will not be dissatisfied  
by my long letter (which

I thought you would be of four  
pages when I took up my  
pen but you will write to  
me & tell me how you  
it is with you & something  
of how matters look from  
your point of view. I am  
wondering if you will  
be so kind as to write  
for I have heard of many  
who sympathize with the  
South, that is to say with  
Slavery & it was very gratifying  
to hear - but I believe that  
in the presence of the South  
& if there be those who fall  
away - I must think they were  
self-deceived from the first.  
I am sure I was surprised that

The rapid progress of ~~the~~  
changes among our colored  
people & the state of the  
American "freedmen" has not  
attracted more attention &  
sympathy in England. It  
seems to me the great event  
of the age & must soon  
I think engage the atten-  
tion of the whole world  
the present movement  
will go far to solve <sup>many</sup> ~~many~~  
problems. I should have  
thought that a few of the  
thousand histories of the  
passage of our slaves out of  
their house of bondage which  
are published from day to day  
would have moved England.  
As no works of ours, as our  
"Uncle Tom's Cabin" even could have

one plus of here a piece about  
the "dangers of immediate emanci-  
pation" the desperate tenta-  
tive of making the President's  
Proclamation known in these  
plantations. "The threatened  
policy of employing black  
soldiers" & all the old  
stuff about cutting throats  
etc etc. It is all the while  
the new change is, that these  
slaves should be reckoned by  
slaves held by their Masters.  
A few really believe that  
their liberty, comfort, life or value  
of Black people are as import-  
ant as those of white people  
& realize they do so believe they  
cannot count on these rights  
to any purpose. I do know  
that there are some who  
continue to labour & suffer  
as before. I have lately  
had a letter from Patience  
who with her husband Thomas

has been very tenderly interested  
about these poor Freedmen  
of the South. They have  
circulated before their "West-  
ing of Sufferings" & obtained  
for them some generous  
contributions. I dare say  
you may have already  
seen their circular which  
has been published some  
of the chosen extracts from  
the news paper. It is long  
since I have heard from  
Bro. Roberts who has been  
very good however in writing  
to me from time to time - I  
wish I could think him happier  
than I fear he is - I was very  
glad to see his interesting  
goodnight letter - who came here  
with him & who is with



very dear young & cultivated  
person - it is a comfort to think  
that he has such companions  
in his bereavement for I fancy  
the other thought must be  
just the same. They are young  
& Miss Webb seemed so strong  
& ready on all & thought free  
& they will comprehend  
any thing in this life but  
if you are good enough to  
write pray tell me how often  
I deserve to hear about your  
self - & give me news of your  
good Emma - I remember  
how much you are affected  
you think gratefully of  
your kind thoughts of me &  
write about me very frequently  
as usual - their letters though  
very interesting are now full  
of praise for details. They speak  
wonderfully of you in their last letters  
for time cannot slow or write with

Suffering. I thank God  
I shall return to America  
in the fall - & if I do I sup-  
pose Anne Chapman will  
enrich you going with me  
Anne & I bring both much  
love to you. M. Lauree is  
abroad for a few weeks & is  
down with the Influenza  
They are not really settled  
in England <sup>yet</sup> - as their passage  
is a great expense & trouble  
& they are obliged to make their  
arrangements slowly & we  
think they will not get to New  
York settled - Richmond is a  
good place in one sense - but  
gay in another & a disagreeable  
one - as it is the constant resort  
of pleasure people from London  
who crowd its famous Terrace  
so that they faintly sport the  
prospect - We hope however  
to induce you to come here  
& see us before long & until  
we meet I am ever affectionately  
yours  
Caroline Norton